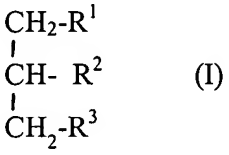
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A method of providing a protective film intermediate a lipid layer of a tear film of an ocular substrate and a contact lens, comprising topically applying an ophthalmic fluid to the contact lens before applying the contact lens to the ocular substrate, wherein the ophthalmic fluid comprises at least one glyceride of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1=R^2=R^3 is O-CO-R; or R^1=R^3 is O-CO-R when R^2 is OH; or R^1 is O-CO-R when R^2=R^3=OH; R is a fatty acid residue comprising 16-20 carbon atoms and containing at least one unsaturated bond, excluding when R is oleic acid, and R is the same or different when R^1=R^3 or R^1=R^2=R^3.

2 (original). The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that irritation to the ocular substrate associated with the application of the contact lens to the ocular substrate is reduced.

3 (original). The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the method prevents and treats dry eye syndrome experienced by contact lens wearers.

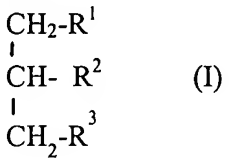
4 (original). The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the method reinforces the lipid layer of the tear film of the ocular substrate upon application of the contact lens to the ocular substrate.

5 (original). The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the fatty acid residue contains at least one unsaturated bond in a *cis*-configuration.

6 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 1, characterized in that the ophthalmic fluid contains at least one triglyceride, diglyceride, or monoglyceride derived from ~~oleic acid,~~ linoleic acid, linolenic acid, palmitoleic acid, arachidonic acid, or mixtures thereof.

7 (currently amended). A method of providing a protective film intermediate a lipid layer of a tear film of an ocular substrate and a contact lens, comprising topically

applying an ophthalmic fluid to the contact lens before applying the contact lens to the ocular substrate, wherein the ophthalmic fluid consists essentially of at least one glyceride of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1=R^2=R^3 is O-CO-R; or R^1=R^3 is O-CO-R when R^2 is OH; or R^1 is O-CO-R when R^2=R^3=OH; R is a fatty acid residue comprising 16-20 carbon atoms and containing at least one unsaturated bond, excluding when R is oleic acid, and R is the same or different when R^1=R^3 or R^1=R^2=R^3.

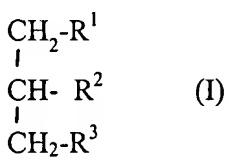
8 (original). The method according to Claim 7, characterized in that irritation to the ocular substrate associated with the application of the contact lens to the ocular substrate is reduced.

9 (original). The method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the method reinforces the lipid layer of the tear film of the ocular substrate upon application of the contact lens to the ocular substrate.

10 (original). The method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the fatty acid residue contains at least one unsaturated bond in a *cis*-configuration.

11 (currently amended). The method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the ophthalmic fluid contains at least one triglyceride, diglyceride, or monoglyceride derived from ~~oleic acid,~~ linoleic acid, linolenic acid, palmitoleic acid, arachidonic acid, or mixtures thereof.

12 (new). An ophthalmic fluid for topical application to a contact lens, wherein the ophthalmic fluid is arranged in use to provide a protective film intermediate a lipid layer of a tear film of an ocular substrate and a contact lens, the ophthalmic fluid comprising at least one glyceride of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R^1=R^2=R^3 is O-CO-R; or R^1=R^3 is O-CO-R when R^2 is OH; or R^1 is O-CO-R when R^2=R^3=OH; R is a fatty acid residue having a carbon chain length of between 16-20

carbon atoms and containing at least one unsaturated bond, excluding when R is oleic acid, and R is the same or different when $R^1=R^3$ or $R^1=R^2=R^3$.

13 (new). An ophthalmic fluid according to claim 12, characterized in that the fatty acid residue contains at least one unsaturated bond in a cis-configuration.

14 (new). An ophthalmic fluid according to claim 12, characterized in that the ophthalmic fluid contains at least one triglyceride, diglyceride, or monoglyceride derived from linoleic acid, linolenic acid, palmitoleic acid; arachidonic acid, or mixtures thereof.

15 (new). The use of an ophthalmic fluid according to claim 12 for the treatment of a contact lens, wherein the ophthalmic fluid is arranged in use to provide a protective film intermediate a lipid layer of a tear film of an ocular substrate and a contact lens.